

APPLICATION: THST 471: DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

Eligibility

Junior and senior Theater and Performance Studies majors who have taken at least one seminar are eligible. First-year students, sophomore, and non-majors may also be eligible on a case-by-case basis. For the most part, the process is straightforward and can be arranged at the start of the semester in which you plan to do the work. However, please keep in mind that you will need to petition the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing if any of the following conditions apply:

- you want to take more than one independent study in any single term before your senior year;
- you want to take more than two independent studies in any single term during the senior year or;
- you want to take more than three independent studies in your first six terms of enrollment.

If you know that you will need to petition the Committee on Honors and Academic Standing, it is a good idea to begin the process described below during the semester before the one in which you are planning to enroll in an independent study.

Process and Requirements

Prior to the start of the semester, contact a faculty member with whom you'd like to work. Once you've gotten approval from a faculty member to go ahead with a Directed Independent Study, email the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). This is important as the DUS will be responsible for collecting grades from your faculty adviser and reporting them to the Registrar's Office.

At the start of the Add/Drop period, request permission to enroll in THST 471: Directed Independent Study via Yale Course Search and let the DUS know you have requested permission.

No later than the first week of classes, work with your Faculty Adviser to establish provisional meeting times for the semester. New guidelines from the Office of the Registrar ask that students meet with their advisers for an hour, once a week. However, this can be altered as necessary to suit scheduling needs or the needs of the course. You must meet with your Faculty Adviser for a minimum of twelve hours during the semester. Up to six hours of this time may be used by your adviser for visits to rehearsals or a final performance.

No later than the first week of classes, work with your Faculty Adviser to define the culminating product for the course, such as a final essay, series of short essays, portfolio, performance, final exam, script, etc. A clearly defined culminating project is a requirement for directed independent studies. Please consult the guidelines below.

- If the culminating project is a performance project (acting, directing, choreography, etc.), advisers attend rehearsals and performances at the mutual convenience of adviser and student. A final performance must be accompanied by an essay of about fifteen pages.

- If the independent study is a course in literature, theory, history, or dramaturgy, it should entail substantial reading and an essay or essay(s) totaling at least twenty pages.
- If the culminating project is a play, a final draft of a full script is expected. No accompanying essay is required. Other types of writing-based projects may be proposed.
- If the culminating project is a design project, students should submit a portfolio consisting of designer drawings, collected research (images and otherwise), paperwork (Q sheets, plot, etc.), and an essay of about fifteen pages.
- If the culminating project is a dance project, students should expect to create an original choreographic work and write a fifteen-page accompanying essay.

Note on 15-page papers accompanying performance projects and design portfolios

Although each essay's requirements will vary with the project and its adviser, essays accompanying performance projects or design portfolios must be more than rehearsal logs. They should demonstrate analysis, interpretation, and research, and should meet standards of proficiency in their argumentation, organization, style, and presentation.

No later than the first week of classes, work with your Faculty Adviser to write a description of the Independent Study (max. 300 words) that clearly explains why the work of the course cannot be accomplished within an already existing graduate or undergraduate course to which the student has access, how the coursework constitutes a meaningful opportunity for the student, and what the culminating project will be. This description may be written by you or by your adviser as you see fit. For projects other than playwriting, please attach a preliminary bibliography of 8-12 texts, productions, or other objects of analysis.

By the Add/Drop deadline:

- Submit the Application to Enroll in a Directed Independent Study (next page) to your DUS with your signature and the signature of your Faculty Adviser. Your adviser may give signed consent by sending an email to the DUS, but the form you turn in must have your written signature. You are welcome to send scanned copies via email.
- Send your provisional meeting times and dates to your DUS via email.

Grading and Culminating Projects

Independent study courses are graded on a Pass/Fail basis with the additional requirement that the Faculty Adviser submit a substantive report that both describes the nature of the independent study and evaluates the student's performance in it. These reports will be shared with the student, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the student's Residential College Dean.

Questions?

Consult your Director of Undergraduate Studies.

APPLICATION TO ENROLL IN A DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY: THST 471

to be completed by the student

Name _____ Class/College _____

Email _____

Faculty Adviser for Independent Study _____

Please describe the Independent Study. Be sure to explain why the coursework described cannot be accomplished within an already existing graduate or undergraduate course to which the student has access, how it provides a meaningful opportunity for the student, and what the culminating project will be (max. 300 words). You may attach your description to this form or use the space below. Please also attach, if required, a preliminary bibliography.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

Signature of Faculty Adviser _____ Date _____

Signature of DUS _____ Date _____

Submit this form and attachments to your DUS no later than the Add/Drop deadline for the semester in which you plan to enroll.